

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A hollow fiber membrane submodule installable into a pressure vessel comprising:

a hollow fiber membrane element having a feed fluid inlet,
a feed fluid distribution pipe in communication with the feed fluid inlet, and an assembly of hollow fiber membranes having selective permeability and disposed around the feed fluid distribution pipe, wherein both ends of the hollow fiber membrane assembly are separately fixed with resin, and at least one end of the hollow fiber membrane assembly is subsequently cut to ~~hollow out~~ open the hollow fiber membranes;

permeated fluid collectors for collecting permeated fluid flowing from the opening or openings of the hollow fiber membranes; and

removable snaps arranged non-continuously around the outer peripheral surface of the permeated fluid collector and an end of the hollow fiber membrane element, securing the permeated fluid collector to the end of the hollow fiber membrane element in which a projection on one end of a snap is engaged in a depression provided in the end of the hollow fiber membrane element, and a projection on the other end of the snap is engaged in a depression provided in the permeated fluid collector, wherein the regions of the snaps serve to secure the hollow fiber membrane element at a central position within a pressure vessel, whereas the regions without a snap serve to ensure a flow path through which a concentrated fluid can pass.

2. (Currently Amended) The hollow fiber membrane submodule according to Claim 1, wherein the hollow fiber membranes having selective permeability are arranged in a crisscross fashion around the feed fluid distribution pipe in communication with the feed fluid inlet.

3. (Currently Amended) The hollow fiber membrane submodule according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the hollow fiber membranes are reverse osmosis membranes.

4. (Currently Amended) The hollow fiber membrane submodule according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the snaps are made of resin.

5. (Currently Amended) The hollow fiber membrane submodule according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the snaps have an impact strength of not less than 2.5 kg•cm/cm, a bending elasticity coefficient of 10,000 to 200,000 kg/cm², and a tensile strength of not less than 400 kg/cm².

6. (Currently Amended) A hollow fiber membrane module comprising two or more of the hollow fiber membrane submodules according to any of Claim 1 and Claim 2, in a pressure vessel.